

Testimony of Ruthie Anderson-benge for SF 3655

Volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense In America

Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

Chair Latz, Ranking Minority Member Limmer, and Committee Members,

My name is Ruthie Anderson-benge and I am writing today to urge the committee to support SF 3655, which proposes restricting or banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in order to reduce the likelihood and severity of mass shootings and related casualties.

I am St. Paul resident, a mother, and a school speech-language pathologist.

I am testifying today because:

- Working in a school should not mean going to work scared of a potential mass shooting event.
- Working in a school should not mean constantly being aware of exit strategies or hiding places in case a mass shooter were to enter my campus.
- Working in a school should not mean putting my life and the lives of my colleagues at risk.
- My students and all students deserve to be safe at school.
- Sending my child to school someday should not come with the fear related to mass shootings.

My experience leads me to emphasize that something needs to be done to keep our students, teachers, and all community members safe.

Research shows that restrictions on high-capacity magazines can help prevent mass shooting injuries and fatalities and may reduce the devastation of daily gun violence in America. It is time for Minnesota to make real changes that will save lives.

I encourage members of the committee to vote YES on SF 3655.

Thank you for considering this testimony and this important legislation.